Editor
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Dear Editor,

From so high in the clouds of personal befuddlement he has no contact with reality and with words that mean the exact opposite of his uses of them, Ron Heflin denounces you and me alike and in this is so lost in himself and his prejudices he is utterly unaware of his remarkable self-denunciation in his letter published the 17th.

With but a single exception, Roy Meachum, all your many columnists are liars (not "interested in truth") and propagandists ("frequently slanted and unbalanced" whose only interest is "to score points for their side") and, to Heflin, because I expose undenied bigotry I am a bigot! He concludes with what from either insensitivity or ignorance precisely duplicates the traditional posture of anti-semites, Jews must heed those who incite to prejudice and hatred and, with reference to me he says that "members of groups that historically have every reason in the world to support Mr. Meachum's purposes and methods of writing." Because I do not and instead have exposed the factual error and exactly those flaws in Meachum's columns that Heflin attributes to everyone save Meachum, "Such bigotry is extraordinarily flagrant and gives one cause to question any belief in the essential goodness of people." P.W.Botha could not have put it any better!

One would never gather from Heflin's letter that I have not questioned any opinion Meachum has expressed and have, in fact, stated that he has a right to hold and express any opinion he wants, no matter how wrong and indefensible it is, but have, with great specificity, criticized his factual error and its clear meaning.

Heflin says that Meachum's sole purpose is "to arrive at or communicate truth." As in castigating the FBI for the failures in the Pollard security investigation - which was not conducted by the FBI? Or in "communicating" that the Israeli leader Yitzak Shamir was the leader of the so-called Stern gang when he wasn't even a member of it? Or in describing Arab terrorists as both "moderate" and innocent?

As Heflin sees it, Meachum "is sitting back with us, interested but unemotional... has thought long and hard about the problems of racism, perjudice bigotry and discrimination in all their subtleties." So that is why to Meachum it is the Jews who murder Arab children, the Jews who are extremists and do not want peace in Israeli, which is outnumbered about 200 to 1 by those who are in a state of war with it for so many decades?

Preacher Heflin, perhaps unaware that he is arrogating all knowledge and understanding to himself and those who think like him, prates/ "We need now to begin teaching some of the people who belong to groups that have been so remarkably injured in the past by illiberal attitudes about people the value of tolerance..." "liberal" and "tolerance" indeed! I have news for Preacher Heflin: we've lived it since before the time of Christ and those who need to be taught are the Meachums and the Heflins who turn everything exactly around. How else can an undenied complaint of bigotry be described as bigotry?

With such friends as Heflin to "defend" him, something most men prefer to do for themselves, Meachum would be better off with enemies. But I do thank Heflin for his unintended underscoring of the bias, racism and yes, dishonesty of the Meachum columns I have addressed and about which Meachum himself is entirely silent. Silence, too, is Meachum's right, but it speaks for him as Heflin cannot and does not.

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg

Harold